

HOUSE BILL 3392  
By McMillan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71,  
Chapter 5, relative to the health care safety net.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-148(a), is amended by deleting the current language in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) To the extent that funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act including, but not limited to, any such funds that may be available from the bureau of TennCare's reserve funds, the department of finance and administration, in coordination with the department of health and the department of mental health and developmental disabilities, is authorized to facilitate the expansion and augmentation of a health care safety net in the state of Tennessee. The health care safety net provides medical assistance to individuals in need of medical care who are uninsured or uninsurable and who lack financial resources to secure medical care. It is the legislative intent that priority should be given to efforts pursuant to this section that benefit the greatest number of such individuals and that benefit individuals who previously were eligible for TennCare. Such efforts may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Improvement and expansion of the provision of medical assistance, both medical services and pharmacy, in the county health departments, with specific emphasis placed in providing assistance in those counties with the largest number of uninsured and uninsurable individuals; such support could include funding for additional staffing needs and facility expansion;

(2) Support for community-based health care facilities and practices, including not-for-profit clinics, faith-based facilities, community mental health

agencies, and federally qualified health centers, for the provision of health care services to the uninsured and uninsurable, and measures to ensure that contact information for such health care facilities is provided to the uninsured and uninsurable;

(3) Support for community-based volunteer, faith-based and not-for-profit agencies and organizations that provide funding for health care for the uninsured and uninsurable, or that provide services to assist the uninsured and uninsurable with obtaining health care, and measures to ensure that contact information for those community-based agencies and organizations is provided to the uninsured and uninsurable;

(4) Incentive-based measures to encourage and promote physician involvement and treatment of the uninsured and uninsurable population, including specific steps taken to assist in providing for continuity of care, including specialty care, for such individuals, as well as targeted efforts at comprehensive disease management;

(5) Creation and implementation of a twenty-four-hour, seven-day a week health care safety net hotline designed to assist and direct individuals in need of medical care and services to available resources in their areas;

(6) Creation of a donated care referral system that can be easily accessed by individuals in need of medical care; and

(7) Collaborative work with agencies and entities across the state to encourage citizens to volunteer their time, effort, and resources in creative efforts to assist in the overall care and well-being of uninsured individuals in this state.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.

